

**Ammanford Urban  
District Council**



**Medical Officer of  
Health's  
REPORT  
For 1961**



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Jones & Mainwaring (Printers), Ltd., Ammanford.



# Ammanford Urban District Council

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health :*

Dr. G. M. HERBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Public Health Inspector :*

Mr. E. V. COLLINS.

*Clerical Assistant :*

Miss JANET TIMOTHY

*Rodent Control Officer :*

Mr. J. EDWARDS.

# Ammanford Urban District Council

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AMMANFORD,

OCTOBER, 1962.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my tenth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

It was another good year for Public Health in the Urban area and the only infectious diseases notified were cases of measles. This outbreak commenced in 1960 and continued intermittently during the first few months of 1961.

There was a slight increase in the number of births and a decrease in the number of deaths registered, but according to the Registrar General's mid-year estimate, the population fell by 280. The 1961 census figure was ~~6,240~~, compared with 6,580 in 1951.

6,264

My Report has again been divided into two sections, and the second part has been prepared by the Public Health Inspector. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking him for his ready co-operation and assistance, and also the other Members of the Staff and the Council for their continued interest and support in the work of the Health Department.

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. HERBERT

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	...	...	...	944 Acres
Population (mid-year, 1961)	...	...	...	6,240
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	2,046

Number of Houses completed in the Urban during 1961 :—

(a) By the Council	...	...	...	2 bungalows
(b) By Private Building	...	...	...	5 houses
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£76,068
Net Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	£291

## VITAL STATISTICS.

*Births*—93 Births were registered during the year, compared with 84 last year.

			M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	50	39	89
Illegitimate	...	...	1	3	4

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51	42	93
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			M.	F.	Total
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0

Total *Live and Still Births* :—

			M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	51	40	91
Illegitimate	...	...	1	3	4
			52	43	95

*Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total Live Births* :—

Ammanford	...	...	...	4.30
Carmarthenshire	...	...	...	3.40
England and Wales	...	...	...	5.90

*Birth Rate per 1,000 Population* :—

Ammanford	...	...	...	14.90
Carmarthenshire	...	...	...	13.94
England and Wales	...	...	...	17.4

*Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births)* :—

Ammanford	...	...	...	21.05
Carmarthenshire	...	...	...	22.7
England and Wales	...	...	...	19.1

*Infant Deaths.*

This year there were four infant deaths, premature twins, one congenital defect and a baby of a few months who died of an acute infection.

*Deaths of Infants under One Week* :—

			M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	2	0	2
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0

*Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks :—*

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ... ..	2 ...	1 ...	3
Illegitimate ... ..	0 ...	0 ...	0

*Deaths of Infants under 1 Year :—*

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ... ..	3 ...	1 ...	4
Illegitimate ... ..	0 ...	0 ...	0

*Infant Mortality Rates —**Perinatal —**Still Births and Deaths under 1 week:—*

Ammanford ... ..	42.11
Carmarthenshire ... ..	33.55
England and Wales ... ..	32.2

*Early Neonatal — Deaths during 1st Week:—*

Ammanford ... ..	21.51
Carmarthenshire ... ..	10.32
England and Wales .....	—

*Neonatal — Deaths under 4 Weeks :—*

Ammanford ... ..	32.29
Carmarthenshire ... ..	13.33
England and Wales ... ..	15.5

*Under 1 Year :—*

Ammanford ... ..	43.01
Carmarthenshire ... ..	20.22
England and Wales ... ..	21.4
Wales ... ..	22.0

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

This year again there were no deaths from Pregnancy or Child-birth.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Live and Still-births :—

Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
0.0 ...	0.4 ...	0.33

## DEATHS.

There were six fewer deaths this year, a total of seventy-six.

The main cause was again Heart diseases, with Cancer as the second highest cause.

Pneumoconiosis was a contributory factor in four of the male deaths, aged 40, 54, 64 and 79 years.

The age distribution in the older age groups is similar to the previous year, though only one female reached 90 years.

55% of the male deaths and 72% of the females were 65 years of age or over.

43% of the male deaths and 57% of the females were 70 years of age or over.

30% of the male deaths and 50% of the females were over 75 years of age.

16% of the male deaths and 36% of the females were over 80 years of age.

9% of the male deaths and 17% of the females were 85 years of age or over.

3% of the females were over 90 years old.

*Death Rate per 1,000 Population :—*

Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
12.18	... 13.43	... 12.0

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1961:

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis ... ..	0	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0	0
Diabetes ... ..	0	0	0
Cancer ... ..	9	4	13
Lukaemia ... ..	0	0	0
Intra-Cranial Vascular Diseases ... ..	5	4	9
Coronary Diseases ... ..	9	5	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	0	1	1
Other Heart Diseases ... ..	2	3	5
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	2	4	6
Influenza ... ..	0	0	0
Pneumonia ... ..	1	0	1
Bronchitis ... ..	2	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	3	0	3
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	3	0	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	1	0	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations ... ..	0	1	1
Suicide ... ..	0	0	0
Other Ill-defined Diseases ... ..	5	6	11
Motor Accidents ... ..	1	0	1
All other Accidents ... ..	1	1	2
	44	32	76

*Cancer.*

There was an increase of five in the deaths from Cancer, particularly in males. These included three male deaths from lung Cancer.

## CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER

Site and Ages	40 - 50		50 - 60		60 - 70		70 - 80		Over 80		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Stomach ...							1		2	1	2	2
Colon ...							1				1	
Oesophagus ..					1		1				1	1
Lung and Bronchus ..	1		1						1		3	
Ovary ...							1				1	
Other Sites ...	1						1				2	
Total ...	2		1		1		2	3	3	1	9	4



Rate per 1,000 Population :—

Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
1.95	2.01	2.2

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Notifications received during 1961 ... Total 110

### CLASSIFICATION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

				Ammanford		Carmarthenshire	
				1960	1961	1960	1961
Measles	...	...	...	35	110	1985	1747
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	0	84	76
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	176	100
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	2	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	0	0	100	67
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	0	5	3
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	0	0	0	2

The outbreak of measles which commenced at the end of 1960 continued and cases were notified until the middle of June. It was prevalent throughout the country. No other infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, were notified.

### DIPHTHERIA AND IMMUNISATIONS

For the fifteenth year in succession, no Diphtheria occurred in the Area, however, cases, with deaths, continued to occur in the country, including a few cases in a neighbouring county. This is a reminder that it is still possible for the disease to recur in this area—after an absence of fifteen years—if the level of immunity is not maintained. Parents should ensure that their babies and young children are protected by Immunisation, which can be obtained from the Family Doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinic, held weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

During the past year, most of those immunised received separate injections protecting them against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. Towards the end of the year a Triple Antigen protecting against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, was given.

The numbers Immunised were :—

*Under 5 years :—*

Immunised against Whooping Cough	...	64
Immunised against Diphtheria only	...	84
Triple Inoculations	...	32
5 - 14 years Diphtheria	...	14
Whooping Cough and Diphtheria	...	9
Triple Inoculations	...	2
Boosters	...	174

## VACCINATIONS

*Smallpox.*—Vaccination against this disease is also done by the Family Doctor and at the Infant Welfare Clinic. Separate figures for the area are not available, but 1,791 children under one year were Vaccinated in the whole County—estimated at 51.56% of the registered births for the year.

*BCG Vaccination.*—Separate figures for this area are not available. The figures for the whole County are:—

*School Children Scheme :*

Number Skin Tested	...	...	2,392
Number found Negative	...	...	1,894
Number Vaccinated	...	...	1,888

*Contact Scheme :*

Number Skin Tested	...	...	365
Number found Negative	...	...	171
Number Vaccinated	...	...	144

*Poliomyelitis.*—Vaccination was continued for persons up to 40 years of age, expectant mothers and others in the Health Service.

	Number received 2 injections	Number received 1 injection
Children born 1943 - 1961 ...	3,468	500
Persons born 1933 - 1942 ...	1,843	0
Persons born 1933 who have not passed their 40th birthday	3,291	0
Expectant Mothers ...	199	0
Others ...	0	160
Number received third injection during the year ...		8,478
Number received fourth injection during the year ...		6,467

## TUBERCULOSIS

There were fewer cases notified during the year—four new cases of respiratory disease in Males and another old case re-notified. There was also one female—a transfer from another area. There were no cases of non-respiratory disease. There were no deaths this year.

*Classification of Cases in Age Group :—*

	Respiratory M.	F
20 - 30 years ...	1 re-notified	
50 - 60 years ...		1 (inward transfer)
60 - 70 years ...	4	0
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1

*Tuberculosis Rates :—*

			Case Rates	Death Rates	
A.U.D.C.	...	Resp.	0.79	Resp.	0.0
		Non-Resp.	0.0	Non-Resp.	0.0
C.C.C.	...	Resp.	0.58	Resp.	0.0
		Non-Resp.	0.11	Non-Resp.	0.0

A Mass Radiography Van - Unit "J" was stationed in Ammanford on alternative Wednesdays throughout the year—for the first period outside the Ambulance Hall, Margaret Street, then outside the Old Age Pensioners' Hall in Quay Street. The attendances compared favourably with similar arrangements in other parts of the County, so the visits will be continued in 1962. Three sessions are held at each visit, 10 - 12 a.m., 2 - 4 p.m. and 5 - 6.30 p.m.

## · NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was required under this Act during the year.

## OVERSEAS STUDENTS

A small group of the Overseas Students taking a Social Science Course at Swansea University visited Ammanford prior to commencing their studies. They were given a talk on our Health Services.

## GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ante-Natal Clinic	- Weekly on Thursday morning.	} At High Street Clinic
Post-Natal Clinic	- Alternate Thursday afternoons.	
Infant Welfare	- Weekly, Tuesday afternoons.	
Orthopaedic	- Monday (morning and afternoon)	
Chest Clinic	- At the Amman Valley Hospital Outpatient Department on Friday.	

## DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

National Welfare Foods are distributed at the Wesleyan Schoolroom every Tuesday and Friday afternoons, from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

## MIDWIVES

There are two qualified midwives practising in the area.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES

A County Ambulance and Car are stationed at the Ambulance Station in High Street.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1961

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The Report is similar to that of previous years and gives a broad outline of the wide and varied nature of the responsibilities and duties of the Department.

## WATER SUPPLY

The Supply of Water for the District was again plentiful throughout the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have worked satisfactorily.

For the past few years the new scheme of re-organisation has been working, and the new Reservoirs ensure a plentiful and regular supply over the whole district.

The Water is sampled by the Loughor Joint Water Board and chemical and bacteriological reports were satisfactory. The entire population is served direct.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewers have functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Disposal Works, which is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board, there being four constituent authorities to the constitution of the Sewerage Board, namely, Ammanford Urban District Council, the Urban District of Cwmamman and the Rural Districts of Llandeilo and Pontardawe.

Work is in progress in carrying out the first stage of the improvements to the Board's Main Trunk Sewers. No cases of flooding has been reported as in previous years, and the anti-effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition, but it does not appear that this is done sufficiently often.

## RIVERS, ETC., POLLUTION

During the year there has been no serious pollution of rivers in the district. The most serious source of pollution at present is the discharge of washery effluents from Collieries outside the Urban Area. These effluents are treated by precipitation before discharge and when the tanks are kept clear of silt, the effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition, but it does not appear that this is done sufficiently often.

Work is proceeding by the South West Wales Rivers Board in dredging the bed of the River Amman and Loughor.

## WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers	... ..	2146
No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage system connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers	... ..	1
No. of Houses with Closets built on the Conservancy System not able to connect to Sewers	... ..	2

## PUBLIC CLEANSING — DRY REFUSE

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collection being made by the Council Lorry twice weekly from all parts of the Town. The Refuse, when collected, is tipped at Gelligweirdy and Rhydymaerdy. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers' and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the Tradesmen by burying on the Council tips.

There has been some improvement in the type of receptacles in use, but I would respectfully recommend that the Council give consideration to Section 75 of the Public Health Act 1936 to enforce that all house-holders provide a standard type Dustbin for the reception of house refuse of such material, size and construction as the Authority may approve.

Both refuse disposal tips have been kept in a sanitary condition and are adequately fenced to prevent trespass and animals straying on the tips.

The tips have been visited and inspected on 226 occasions. Both refuse disposal tips are sprayed regularly to prevent fly nuisance.

## PRIVIES, CESSPITS, ETC.

The contents of the remaining two Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their garden, and the Cesspits being built on the soakaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

No. of Inspections made for Nuisance	... ..	296
No. of Properties repaired as the result of verbal representations	... ..	20
No. of Informal Notices served	... ..	14
No. of Statutory Notices served	... ..	18
No. of Abatement Orders through Magistrates' Court	...	Nil
No. of Water Leakage Inspections	... ..	24
No. of Water Leakage Notices	... ..	Nil
No. of Properties repaired as the result of Official Action	...	32



## HOUSING ACT, 1957

No. of Proposals accepted as result of Time and Place Meetings	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Demolition Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of families re-housed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of houses acquired by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## CAMPING SITES

There are no Licences in force. There are no suitable sites within the Urban Area. One caravan was cleared from the area for unauthorised camping.

## THE CLEAN AIR ACT (SMOKE ABATEMENT)

Only two complaints were registered under this heading, which were satisfactorily dealt with.

The majority of householders use anthracite coal which is practically smokeless.

## SWIMMING BATH AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools in the Urban Area. Every effort is made during the summer months to discourage schoolchildren from bathing in the local rivers.

## SCHOOLS

There are five Schools in the area and one private Commercial School. The sanitary conditions of the Council Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the sewers and with an abundant supply of water from the mains. Improvements have been carried out to the sanitary accommodation at the temporary Secondary Modern School accommodation at Capel Wesle.

## PLACES OF AMUSEMENT

There are three places of amusement, which are inspected regularly.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO  
CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

There are no common Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodging, Tenements or Houses used in multiple occupation in the area.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. MILK.

No. of Dairies in the Urban Area	...	...	4
No. of Milk Shops in the Urban Area	...	...	4
No. of Inspections made	...	...	36
No. of Vehicles Inspected	...	...	59

During the year, 48 samples of Milk have been taken and submitted to the County Laboratory for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test and the Phosphates Test.

Four samples failed the test.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. The general quality is good.

From the date of de-control in July, 1954, one Slaughterhouse has been licensed.

The major portion of the meat consumed in the Town is purchased from the Farmers' Meat Corporation, and the quality is excellent.

The Council instituted proceedings for the contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 against a Meat Purveyor. The defendant was fined a sum of Ten Pounds.

## FOOD — CLASSIFIED PREMISES

	No.	Inspections
Butchers' Shops	8	120
Provisions Shops	33	86
Fried Fish Shops	7	48
Ice-Cream Premises	17	12
Cafes	7	36
Bakehouses	5	48
Public Houses	13	19
Slaughterhouses	1	120
Clubs and Factory Canteens	7	19
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	5	64
Food Vehicles	6	44

No. of Notices served re Unsatisfactory Conditions	...	1
No. of Notices complied with	...	1
No. of Food Stores provided with Washing Facilities	...	1
No. of Food Vans provided with Washing Facilities	...	1

Posters issued by the Ministry of Health, emphasising the importance of Food Hygiene, have been displayed in all Food Shops. All condemned food is collected by the Council's lorry and disposed of by burying on the Council's tip.

## ICE-CREAM HEAT TREATMENT REGULATIONS, 1947-52

Only two firms manufacture and retail. These two firms have the prescribed equipment required by the above Regulations. The remainder sell pre-wrapped from deep freeze carbo-ice containers.

The Food Hygiene Regulations have been brought to the notice of all Food Traders, who are co-operating.

Four samples of Ice-cream were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfactory.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

No. of Carcases Inspected:—

Cattle	...	...	...	156
Sheep	...	...	...	685
Pigs	...	...	...	413

## CONDEMNATIONS

Total condemnations of Carcases — Nil.

No. of Carcases affected with Cysticerci — Nil.

				Weight
No. of Beasts' Livers	...	16	Cirrhosis	390lbs.
No. of Sheep Livers	...	28	Fluke Infestation	123lbs.
No. of Pigs' Livers	...	14	Cirrhosis	56lbs.
112lbs. Hind Beef	...	...	Bruised and Gelatinous	
22lbs. Shoulder Bacon	...	...	Abscesses in Prescapula Gland	
6 Frozen Chickens	...	...	Decomposed	
60lbs. Corned Beef	...	...	Decomposed	
44lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	Decomposed	
22lbs. Meat Pies	...	...	Mould	
32lbs. of Cheshire Cheese	...	...	Infested with cheese mite	
30lbs. Bacon	...	...	Decomposed	
120lbs. Tomatoes	...	...	Overripe and Mould	
310 tins of various foodstuffs	...	...	Blown	
36lbs. Kippers	...	...	Rancid	

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No. of Houses Fumigated after Cases of Infectious Diseases 6

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937



## PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	9	53	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	40	105	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	49	158	3	Nil

2 — Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanlines (S.1) ...	1	1	—	1	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	Nil

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspect- tor (4)	By H.M. Inspect- tor (5)	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient			—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	—	Nil
(c) Not Separate for Sexes			—	—	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers) ...					
Total ...	2	2	—	—	Nil

### COUNCIL HOUSES

The Council own 438 Houses, which are regularly inspected.

### THE RENT ACT, 1957 (RENT RESTRICTION REGULATIONS).

This Act became Law on the 1st July, 1957. The Public Health Inspector was appointed Rent Advisory Officer to the Council for the purpose of advising the Public on the implications of the Act.

### CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE

Work has continued on the Rat Population, the added powers given to Local Authorities under the Prevention of damage by Pests Act being of particular value.

## PETROLEUM REGULATIONS, 1928 - 1955

The Public Health Inspector is also designated Petroleum Officer, and the Council have adopted the Model Code of Conditions for the storage of Petroleum Spirit. All Storage Tanks have been tested in accordance with the Regulations and Safety Measures applied.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are 12 Public Conveniences situated in the Town, supervision and cleansing is carried out by the Public Health Department, the Conveniences are cleansed daily and are re-decorated annually.

No. of Visits	...	...	325
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G. M. HERBERT, M.O.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

E. V. COLLINS, P.H.I.

*Public Health Inspector.*

